

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 23 wherein:

said client includes speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on said

~~first and second series of~~ input speech information.

3. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 23 wherein:

said server includes speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on said

~~first and second series of~~ input speech information received from said client over the network.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 2 wherein:

said speech recognition means includes means for verifying whether or not the speech recognition on said ~~first and second series of~~ input speech information has been made correctly[[:]], such that

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means to be made correctly, then said ~~first and second series of~~ input speech information, processed with said speech recognition means, is output[[:]], and

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means not to be made correctly, then speech recognition is performed again to output the series of input speech information processed with said speech recognition means.

7. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 3 wherein:

said speech recognition means includes means for verifying whether or not the speech recognition on said ~~first and second series of~~ input speech information has been made correctly[[:]], such that

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means to be made correctly, then said ~~first and second series of~~ input speech information, processed with said speech recognition means, is output[[:]], and

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means not to be made correctly, then speech recognition is ~~again performed~~ again on the ~~first and second series of~~ input speech information received over the network from said client to output the series of input speech information processed with said speech recognition means.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The client for a contents selection system according to claim 25, further comprising:

speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on the ~~first and second series of~~ input speech information, and transmitting the recognized series of input speech information to the server.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The server for a contents selection system according to claim 26, further comprising:

speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on said ~~first and second~~  
series of input speech information received from said client over said network.

12-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A contents selection system, comprising:

a client configured to successively transmit ~~first a series of~~ input speech information to a server over a network, the series of input speech information including previous, current, and subsequent input speech information; and

a server configured to receive the successively transmitted series of ~~first~~ input speech information from said client, and to generate contents selection information in response to the ~~first series of~~ input speech information,

wherein said server generates the contents selection information for each stage of the transmission of the series of input speech information by calculating the similarity of acoustic characteristic quantities between the current input speech information and the contents selection information generated for the previous input speech information, and said server indicating a match when a number of the calculated similarity of acoustic characteristic quantities enables said client to select at least one contents item from ~~exceeds a predetermined number, such that~~

the match determines the contents selection information of the subsequent input speech  
information of contents items that narrows the possible contents items for selection by said  
client, and to provide the selection as second input speech information to the server so that the  
server can interpret the selection in the second input speech information only within those  
possible contents items, with substantially fewer errors than without the contents selection  
information.

24. (Previously Presented) The contents selection system according to claim 23, wherein  
the contents selection information includes categories for title, performance, and genre.

25. (Currently Amended) A client for a contents selection system, the client comprising:  
a transmitter to successively transmit first a series of input speech information to a server  
over a network, the series of input speech information including previous, current, and  
subsequent input speech information; and

a receiver to receive a series of contents selection information generated by the server in  
response to the first series of input speech information, the series of contents selection  
information including previous, current, and subsequent contents selection information,

wherein the server generates the current contents selection information by calculating the  
similarity of acoustic characteristic quantities between the current input speech information and  
the previous contents selection information, and the server indicates a match when a number of  
the calculated similarity of acoustic characteristic quantities exceeds enables the client to select  
at least one contents item from a predetermined number, such that the match determines the  
subsequent input speech information of contents items that narrows the possible contents items

~~for selection by the client, and to transmit the selection as second input speech information to the server so that the server can interpret the selection in the second input speech information only within those possible contents items, with substantially fewer errors than without the contents selection information.~~

26. (Currently Amended) A server for a contents selection system, the server comprising:

a receiver to successively receive first a series input speech information from a client over a network, the series of input speech information including previous, current, and subsequent input speech information; and

a transmitter to transmit a series of contents selection information generated by the server in response to the first series of input speech information, the series of contents selection information including previous, current, and subsequent contents selection information,

wherein the server generates the current contents selection information by calculating the similarity of acoustic characteristic quantities between the current input speech information and the previous contents selection information, and the server indicates a match when a number of the calculated similarity of acoustic characteristic quantities exceeds ~~enables the client to select at least one contents item from a predetermined number, such that the match determines the subsequent input speech information of contents items that narrows the possible contents items for selection by the client, and to receive the selection as second input speech information from the client so that the server can interpret the selection in the second input speech information only within those possible contents items, with substantially fewer errors than without the contents selection information.~~

27. (Currently Amended) A contents selection method, comprising:

successively transmitting first a series of input speech information from a client to a server over a network, the series of input speech information including previous, current, and subsequent input speech information; and

generating contents selection information at the server in response to receipt of the first series of input speech information,

wherein said server generates the contents selection information for each stage of the transmission of the series of input speech information by calculating the similarity of acoustic characteristic quantities between the current input speech information and the contents selection information generated for the previous input speech information, and said server indicating a match when a number of the calculated similarity of acoustic characteristic quantities enables the client to select at least one contents item from exceeds a predetermined number, such that the match determines the contents selection information of the subsequent input speech information of contents items that narrows the possible contents items for selection by the client, and to provide the selection as second input speech information to the server so that the server can interpret the selection in the second input speech information only within those possible contents items, with substantially fewer errors than without the contents selection information.

28. (Previously Presented) The contents selection method according to claim 27, wherein the contents selection information includes categories for title, performance, and genre.

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